

MASS INTENTIONS

The Baptism of the Lord (Year A)

Saturday 10th January – The Baptism of the Lord	6.30pm	Sonya O'Sullivan (Int)
Sunday 11th January – The Baptism of the Lord	9:00am	Patrick, Mary & Michael McGarvey (R.I.P)
	11:00am	Paddy Byrnes (R.I.P)
Monday 12th January – Feria	9:00am	Rev Emile Nkumu (R.I.P)
Tuesday 13th January – Feria	9:00am	Rev Derek Lance (R.I.P) Maria Formosa (R.I.P 6 th Anni.)
Wednesday 14th January – Feria	9:00am	Rev Noel Doyle (R.I.P)
Thursday 15th January – Feria	9:00am	Rev Bishop Thomas Mc Mahon (R.I.P)
Friday 16th January – Feria	9:00am	Margaret McGrath (Int)
Saturday 17th January – St Anthony	9:00am	Florence Lynch (R.I.P)

Second Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year A)

Saturday 17th January – Second Sunday of Ordinary Time	6:30pm	Maureen & Noreen Walsh (R.I.P)
Sunday 18th January – Second Sunday of Ordinary Time	9:00am	James O'Brien (R.I.P)
	11:00am	Deceased Members of the Abela & Borg Families

Thought for the Week:

At Jesus' baptism the Trinity is uniquely revealed. The Son in the water, the Spirit descending, the Father speaking. This illustrates the communal nature of God. My faith invites me into this divine relationship. As I reflect on the quality of my connection with God, I ask myself is it a distant transaction, or an intimate, relational communion with the Father, through the Son, in the power of the Spirit?



ST ALBAN'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

Langdale Gardens RM12 5LA
PARISH PRIEST: Canon Maurice Gordon



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The Baptism of the Lord (Year A)

10th & 11th January 2026

Dear Friends,

Today's feast of the Baptism of the Lord marks the end of the Christmas season.

Baptism is the key theme of today's Gospel, which describes the baptism of our Lord. Jesus is without sin and has no need for the baptism of repentance that John preaches. Nonetheless, he undergoes baptism in solidarity with us sinners. When Jesus is baptised, the Father affirms Him as the beloved Son and the Holy Spirit descends upon Him. When we were baptised, we are drawn into this life of the Trinity.

God in His goodness dwells within us and we become temples of the Holy Spirit. Thus, Jesus opens the door of salvation to us, and by our Baptism, we pass through that door. But during our lives we often fail to retain the grace of God, that is, His divine life, in us. Serious sin can kill the life of grace in us. But the wonderful thing, which is being stressed, is that through repentance, the mercy of God can restore us to the life of grace. When we fall short and lose the life of grace, the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession / Penance), is the way that we experience God's mercy, and become a new creation again. Mercy is the tender love of God for the sinner who seeks Him.

Prayer:

Father, you sent your Son into the world to show us the way to you. Help us to follow the road he travelled with courage and steadfastness so that one day we may be where he is. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.

God Bless
Canon Maurice

Please pray for all who are sick, including:

Nell Addison, Domingos De Albuquerque, Christophe Amblard, Eva Au, Michael Balfour, William Bradbury, Rose Cahill, Marlene Camay, John Carty, Macmillan Chitoma Bras-Goncalves, Maureen Daly, Katherine Day, Gerry Margaret Dumbrill, Martha Dwyer, Fiona Forder, James Francis, Mary Gallet, Anna Gawlik, Ian Gilling, Maisie Glennon, Maureen Gorham, Kevin Harty, Bernadette Heddle, Peter Hemsley, Ellen Hurley, Mathew John, Julia Joseph, Kathleen Kavanagh, Baby Stephen Kelly, Vicky Loik, David Lynch, Mary Lynes, Amaogechi Mbanu, Siobhan McKeon, Norah McLoughlin, Gladys McQuaid, John Morrison, Ann Mount, Jim Nolan, Brian Nash, Livan Opoku-Agyemang, Baby Teegan Oakley, Dean Partleton, Michelle Pointer, Baby Teddy Rands, Dr Nikhil Rao, Jennie Reddy, Louis Russo, Dorothy Ryan, Fr Francis Coveney, Mary Sayers, Marina Scarff, Robin Stinson, Julia Stokes, Teresa Shorey, John Sinclair, The Salter Family (Bert, Charlie and Bert's Daughter-in-law), Charles Stimpson, Julia Thomas, Melon Vigo, Heather Wood, Elizabeth Wyles, Jay Spencer, Irene (Evelyn's sister) and Clara Yankey. For those we know and the many we do not know, we pray to the Lord.

PARISH FINANCES:

3rd & 4th January 2026

Loose

£677.97

Envelopes

£410.80

Baptism Course:

The next session for the Baptism course will take place on Saturday the 14th of February at 9am in the Parish Hall. To attend please register with Mr & Mrs Law on 07454 962277.

Holy Communion Programme 2025/26:

The next session will take place on Thursday the 22nd of January 2026 at 7pm.

Children will meet in the Parish Hall and Parents in the Church.

We also continue the sessions next Sunday for the children and parents not attending Catholic Schools every Sunday at 10.10am to 10.45am,

Confirmation Programme:

The next session will be on Thursday 5th of February at Brentwood Cathedral. The coach will leave the Church at 5:30pm. It is expected that all our confirmation candidates will attend.

Journey in Faith Programme (RCIA):

Anyone who wishes to know more about the basics of the Faith or is interested in joining the Church is invited to the weekly session every Monday at 7:30pm in the Presbytery.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes:

Join Bishop Alan and pilgrims from across our diocese in Lourdes next summer: Friday 17th - Friday 24th July 2026. Booking details will be available in the new year.

Holy Hour:

Please note Holy Hour continues this Sunday 6 -7pm.

Mother & Toddler Group:

If you would like to join us in 2026, please contact Maria at stalbanstoddler@yahoo.com or 07774 719 806 for more information.

BCYS Summer Lourdes:

Applications are now open for the pilgrimage next July, for those in Year 10 and above. Sign up by January: <https://bcys.net/events/sl26/>.

Brentwood Diocese - Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine & Co. Mayo:

Led by Bishop Alan Williams Monday 15th June 2026 to Friday 19th June 2026. 4 nights in Knock House Hotel, with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Visit Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Ballintubber Abbey, Fr. Peyton Centre. Cost of £799 per person see poster at the back of the Church.

R.I.P:

We pray for the repose of the souls of Rosalinda Mesina who died recently. Her Requiem Mass will take place on the 19th of January at 1pm. Please also pray for Margeret Keating her Requiem Mass will take place on 28th of January at 10:45am. Please also pray for James Akinyemi who died suddenly in Nigeria, funeral arrangements later. May they Rest in Peace.

Holy Father's Intention for January:

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope for your communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

Elm Park Horticultural Society

It is with regret that we announce the sad death of Bernie Williams the chair of the horticultural society. His funeral will be on 23rd January at South Essex Crematorium 2.30pm.

Dates For Your Dairy:

- **Ash Wednesday** – 18th of February
- **Variety Show** – 21st of March
- **Easter Tridium** – 2nd – 5th of April

BCCS Afternoon Tea

The Brentwood Catholic Children Society is delighted to kick off the year with an invitation to Afternoon Tea. Hosted in the opulent surroundings of the Roslin Beach Hotel in Southend-on-Sea on **Tuesday 17th February 2026 (13:30-15:30)**.

Set in the elegant ballroom of this prestigious venue, this fundraising event promises an experience of true luxury.

Tickets are £35 per person - for more information or to book your place search

www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/ or contact Julie (jabbott@bccs.org.uk or 07912277413).

Monthly Youth Mass

The next Youth Mass is on 5th February at Brentwood Cathedral 7.30pm

White Flower Appeal 2026

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children will be holding its annual appeal next weekend. This year's appeal postcards allow supporters to join the fightback campaign against the current threats in Parliament to expand abortion and allow assisted suicide.